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UNCLAS AMMAN 003980

SIPDIS

CAIRO FOR REFCORD  
DEPT FOR PRM/A  
DHS FOR BCIS  
ROME FOR DHS DISTRICT DIRECTOR  
ATHENS FOR DHS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: SECURITY EVALUATIONS OF REFUGEE PROCESSING SITES

REF: (A) CAIRO 03592; (B) SECSTATE 202708; (C) AMMAN 5629

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS KEYED TO QUESTIONS IN REFTTEL.

INTERVIEW SITE: REFUGEE INTERVIEWS ARE CONDUCTED AT UNHCR, AMMAN, WHICH IS LOCATED IN A DIPLOMATIC RESIDENTIAL AREA IN DEIR GHBAR - WEST AMMAN, THEIR NEW LOCATION. THE UNHCR BUILDING, A TOTAL OF 2,900 SQUARE METERS, CONSISTS OF FIVE FLOORS, WITH TWO FLATS TO EACH FLOOR THAT OPEN WITH A SECURITY ACCESS CARD, PLUS A BASEMENT, WHICH IS USED AS THE REFUGEE WAITING ROOM AND HAS THE REFUGEE INTERVIEW ROOMS. THE UNHCR BAGHDAD STAFF WILL USE ONE FLOOR TEMPORARILY AS A TRANSIT OFFICE. A HEAVY WOODEN DOOR, WITH A BUZZER THAT IS CONNECTED TO A GUARD'S POST, SEPARATES THE REFUGEE WAITING ROOM FROM THE INTERVIEW ROOMS. A METAL DOOR SEPARATES THE REFUGEE WAITING ROOM FROM THE STAIRWELL LEADING TO THE OFFICES UPSTAIRS. EACH OF THE INTERVIEW ROOMS THAT ARE LOCATED IN THE BASEMENT HAS A METAL DOOR THAT LEADS TO THE OUTSIDE OF THE BUILDING FOR EMERGENCY EGRESS.

UNHCR HIRED A LOCAL SECURITY FIRM WHOSE STAFF IS PRIMARILY COMPOSED OF RETIRED PERSONNEL FROM THE GOJ MILITARY. ADDITIONALLY, A CLEANING COMPANY IS ALSO USED WITHIN UNHCR WHOSE EMPLOYEES HAVE HAD BACKGROUND CHECKS CONDUCTED PRIOR TO EMPLOYMENT. THERE ARE TWO SECURITY GUARDS ON DUTY 7 DAYS A WEEK, 24 HOURS A DAY WHO MONITOR THE FACILITY AND SCREEN ALL THE REFUGEES WHO ENTER THE PREMISES. ADDITIONALLY, THERE ARE TWO SECURITY GUARDS, LOCATED INSIDE THE REFUGEE WAITING ROOM DURING BUSINESS HOURS, ONE MALE AND ONE FEMALE. ALL REFUGEES ARE SEARCHED UPON ENTERING THE WAITING ROOM. ALL REFUGEES ARE SEARCHED WITH A METAL DETECTOR AND THEIR BAGS ARE SEARCHED AND KEPT IN A LOCKED CABINET. ALSO, CELLULAR PHONES ARE SWITCHED OFF AND KEPT IN A LOCKED CABINET. THERE IS A STATIC POLICE POST OUTSIDE THE PREMISES. GOJ SECURITY SERVICES ALSO PATROL THE AREA.

UNHCR REPORTS THAT A HIGH FENCE, WITH BARBED WIRE, WILL BE INSTALLED AROUND THE BUILDING. THE INSIDE OF THE BUILDING IS SECURED WITH AN ALARM SYSTEM THAT IS CONNECTED TO AN ALARM MONITORING COMPANY. PANIC ALARMS ARE ALSO LOCATED WITHIN THE FACILITY. FIRE SPRINKLERS AND SMOKE DETECTORS WILL ALSO BE INSTALLED. FIRE EXITS ARE LOCATED ON THE GROUND FLOOR AND BASEMENT. EMBASSY REFUGEE PROCESSING STAFF CONDUCT THEIR DHS PRE SCREEN INTERVIEWS AT UNHCR AND USE EMBASSY VEHICLES FOR TRAVEL TO UNHCR. THE DHS OFFICER IS AUTHORIZED TO USE A UNHCR CAR AND DRIVER.

COMMUNICATION: THE FACILITY USES TELEPHONES AND CELL PHONES FOR ALL FORMS OF COMMUNICATION. THE EQUIVALENT OF 911 IN JORDAN IS 191 FOR AN EMERGENCY. THE NEAREST HOSPITAL IS ABOUT 5 MINUTES AWAY, AS IS THE NEAREST POLICE STATION. IN THE EVENT AN OFFICER IS INVOLVED IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION HE/SHE SHOULD CALL POST'S MARINE SECURITY GUARD (POST ONE) AND/OR THE RSO'S OFFICE. THE MINIMUM RESPONSE TIME TO AN EMERGENCY WOULD BE ABOUT FIVE TO TEN MINUTES.  
GNEHM